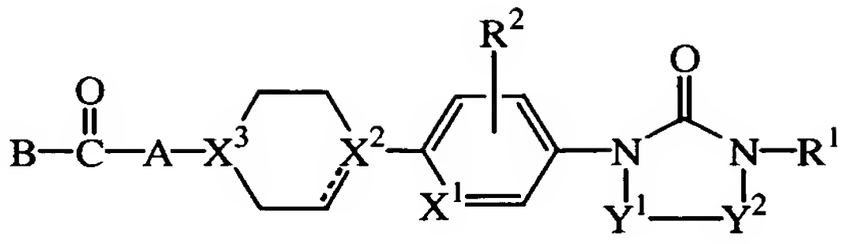
Claims

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

the *N*-oxides, the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts and the stereochemically isomeric forms thereof, wherein

the dotted line is an optional bond and is absent when X^2 represents nitrogen;

the radical $-Y^1-Y^2-$ is a radical of formula

-N=CH- (a-1),

-CH=N- (a-2),

$-CH_2-CH_2-$ (a-3),

-CH=CH- (a-4),

wherein in the bivalent radicals of formula (a-1) or (a-2) the hydrogen atom may optionally be replaced by C_{1-6}alkyl or phenyl; or in the bivalent radicals of formula (a-3) or (a-4) one or two hydrogen atoms may optionally be replaced by C_{1-6}alkyl or phenyl;

X^1 is carbon or nitrogen;

at least one of X^2 or X^3 represents nitrogen and the other X^2 or X^3 represents CH or carbon when the dotted line represents a bond, or both X^2 and X^3 represent nitrogen;

R^1 is C_{1-6}alkyl;

aryl[1];

C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with hydroxy, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, aryl[1] or naphthalenyl;

C_{3-6}cycloalkyl;

C_{3-6}cycloalkenyl;

C_{3-6}alkenyl;

C_{3-6}alkenyl substituted with aryl[1];

C_{3-6}alkynyl;

C_{3-6}alkynyl substituted with aryl[1];

C_{1-4}alkyloxyC_{1-4}alkanediyl optionally substituted with aryl[1];

or when $-Y^1-Y^2-$ is a radical of formula (a-1) than R^1 may be taken together with Y^2 to form a radical of formula -CH=CH-CH=CH- wherein each hydrogen may optionally be replaced by a substituent independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkyloxy, polyhaloC_{1-4}alkyl, halo, cyano, trifluoromethyl or aryl[1];

wherein aryl[1] is phenyl; or phenyl substituted with from one or five substituents

each independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkyloxy, polyhaloC_{1-4}alkyl, halo, cyano, or trifluoromethyl;

R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, or halo;

A is C_{1-6}alkanediyl;

C_{1-6}alkanediyl substituted with one or two groups selected from $aryl^2$, $heteroaryl^1$ and C_{3-8}cycloalkyl;

or provided X^3 represents CH said radical A may also represent NH optionally substituted with $aryl^2$, $heteroaryl^1$ or C_{3-8}cycloalkyl;

wherein $aryl^2$ is phenyl; or phenyl substituted with from one to five substituents each independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkyloxy, halo, cyano or trifluoromethyl;

$heteroaryl^1$ is furanyl, thienyl, pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, or pyridazinyl; and said $heteroaryl^1$ is optionally substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkyloxy, halo, cyano or trifluoromethyl;

B is N^3R^4, or

OR^9;

wherein each R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from

hydrogen,

C_{1-8}alkyl,

C_{1-8}alkyl substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently from one another selected from hydroxy, halo, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyloxy, C_{1-4}alkyloxycarbonyl, C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, polyhaloC_{1-4}alkyl, NR^5R^6, $CONR^7R^8$, $aryl^3$, polycyclic aryl, or $heteroaryl^2$;

C_{3-8}cycloalkyl;

C_{3-8}cycloalkenyl;

C_{3-8}alkenyl;

C_{3-8}alkynyl;

$aryl^3$;

polycyclic aryl;

$heteroaryl^2$; or

R^3 and R^4 combined with the nitrogen atom bearing R^3 and R^4 may form an azetidinyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl, azepanyl, or azocanyl ring wherein each of these rings may optionally be substituted by C_{1-4}alkyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkyloxycarbonylC_{1-4}alkyl, carbonylamino, C_{1-4}alkylcarbonylamino, $CONR^7R^8$ or

C_{1-4}alkylCONR^{7}R^8;

wherein

R^5 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, aryl^3, polycyclic aryl, or heteroaryl^2;

R^6 is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^7 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl or phenyl;

R^8 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl or phenyl; or

R^9 is C_{1-6}alkyl, or C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently from one another selected from hydroxy, halo, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyloxy, C_{1-4}alkyloxycarbonyl, C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}cycloalkenyl, trifluoromethyl, NR^{5}R^6, CONR^{7}R^8, aryl^3, polycyclic aryl, or heteroaryl^2;

wherein

aryl^3 is phenyl; phenyl substituted with one to five substituents each independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkyloxy, halo, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, C_{1-4}alkyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkyloxycarbonylC_{1-4}alkyl, methylsulfonylamino, methylsulfonyl, NR^{5}R^6, C_{1-4}alkylNR^{5}R^6, CONR^{7}R^8 or C_{1-4}alkylCONR^{7}R^8;

polycyclic aryl is naphthalenyl, indanyl, fluorenyl, or 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphtalenyl, and said polycyclic aryl is optionally substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, phenyl, halo, cyano, C_{1-4}alkylcarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkyloxycarbonylC_{1-4}alkyl, NR^{5}R^6, C_{1-4}alkylNR^{5}R^6, CONR^{7}R^8, C_{1-4}alkylCONR^{7}R^8 or C_{1-4}alkyloxycarbonylamino and

heteroaryl^2 is pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, triazinyl, triazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, pyrrolyl, furanyl, thienyl; quinolinyl; isoquinolinyl; 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-isoquinolinyl; benzothiazolyl; benzo[1,3]dioxolyl; 2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxinyl; indolyl; 2,3-dihydro-1H-indolyl; 1H-benzoimidazolyl; and said heteroaryl^2 is optionally substituted with one or two substituents each independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, phenyl, halo, cyano, C_{1-4}alkylcarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-4}alkyloxycarbonylC_{1-4}alkyl, NR^{5}R^6, C_{1-4}alkylNR^{5}R^6, CONR^{7}R^8 or C_{1-4}alkylCONR^{7}R^8.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein X^2 represents nitrogen and X^3 represents CH.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein X^2 represents CH and X^3 represents nitrogen.

4. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein both X^2 and X^3 represent nitrogen.

5. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 wherein radical A represents C_{1-6}alkanediyl substituted with $aryl^2$.

6. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 wherein radical B represents OR^9 wherein R^9 is C_{1-6}alkyl or NR^3R^4 wherein R^3 is hydrogen.

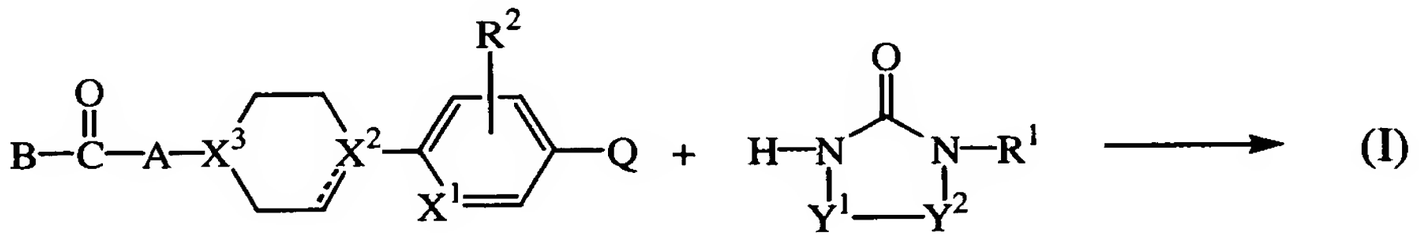
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically active amount of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6.

8. A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 7 wherein a therapeutically active amount of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 is intimately mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 for use as a medicine.

10. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein

a) an intermediate of formula (II), wherein Y^1, Y^2 and R^1 are defined as in claim 1, is reacted with an intermediate of formula (III), wherein X^1, X^2, X^3, R^2, A, and B are as defined in claim 1 and Q is selected from bromo, iodo and trifluoromethylsulfonate, in a reaction-inert solvent and optionally in the presence of at least one transition metal coupling reagent and/or at least one suitable catalyst such as palladium associated with triphenylphosphine, or triphenylarsine; or

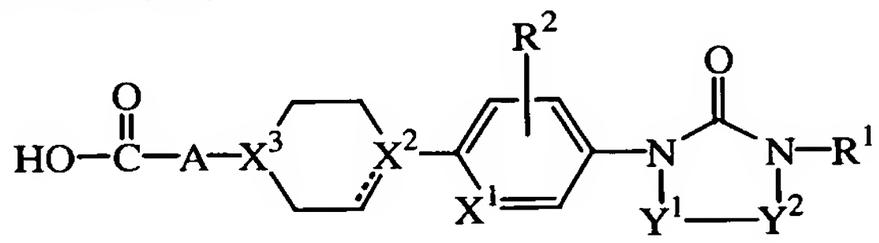


(II) (III)

b) or, compounds of formula (I) are converted into each other following art-known

transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (I) is converted into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (I) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.

11. A compound of formula (IX)



(IX)

the *N*-oxides, the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts and the stereochemically isomeric forms thereof, wherein R^1, R^2, X^1, X^2, X^3, Y^1, Y2 and A are as defined in claim 1.